(c) Yes, Sir. The following steps are taken to maintain the punctuality of flights:

1. Close monitoring of on-time performance.
2. Rationalisation of schedule incorporating revised block time and increased ground time as cushion between flights.
3. Review of action taken for rectification of snags at regions as well as headquarters.
4. Close interaction with manufacturers of spares for timely delivery of supplies.
5. Provision of stand-by aircraft.

(d) Air fares in India are one of the lowest as compared to other countries in the world.

Shortage of luxury coaches and cars for tourism

20. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of imported luxury coaches and cars required for tourism; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the fact that there is a demand for luxury coaches and cars required for tourism, the Government has recently by a Notification allowed a one time import of cars and coaches at concessional Customs duty by specified importers viz. State Tourism Corporations, classified hotels, tour operators and travel agencies approved by Director General Tourism, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

Setting up of an airport at Kargil

21. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct an airport at Kargil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) A *fair weather airstrip belonging to Air* Force with dimensions of 7974 × 150 ft. already exists at Kargil.

Cut in seating capacity of Indian Airlines

22. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has decided to effect a 7 per cent cut in the seating capacity of their aeroplanes;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to encourage private airlines to make good the shortage in the accommodation; and

(d) what will be the effect of Government's decision of 7 per cent cut in the seating capacity on the financial viability of the Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to improve punctuality,